FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 013 *18 January 1980*

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Chilean Daily Urges Closer Ties With Andean Group A 1
Ministers Resolve To Fight Coffee Rust Disease A 1
Briefs: Pan-American Committee Appointments; New LAFTA President A 2

BOLIVIA

Interior Minister Says Cabinet Crisis 'Imminent' C 1
Socialist Leader Quiroga Accuses Businessmen of Seeking Coup C 1
Briefs: New Under Secretariat C 1

ECUADOR

Vice President Hurtado Presents Development Plan to Nation G 1
Government To Increase Union, Organization Involvement G 4

MEXICO

Drive Being Led To Create UN Commission on Iran M 1
Discovery of New Oil Deposit Announced M 1
Navy Chief Favors Increased Arms Supplies M 1

PANAMA

FEP Secretary General Discusses Visit to Iran N 1
Period for Party Registration Opens; New Parties Announced N 2
Sugarcane Union Ends Strike Against La Estrella N 2
[CRITICA 14 Jan]

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Bulgarian Trade Union Expert Expelled P 1
Antigovernment Leftist Conspiracy Discovered, Denounced P 1
Standard Fruit Company Strike Settlement Reached P 1

EL SALVADOR

Majano Denies Rumors of Army Rebellion P 2
British Embassy To Close End of January P 3
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 17 Jan]
Junta Members Fear Possibility of Civil War P 3
Former Junta Member Ungo Denies Talking to Soviet Diplomats P 3

FPL Leader Outlines Government Reform Proposals P 4
LP-28 Leader Denounces Armed Forces Repression P 4
ERP Issues Communique on Armed Action P 5

GUATEMALA

Police Report Presence of Sandinist Commandos, Vehicles P 6

NICARAGUA

Labor Ministry Promotes Collective Production P 6

CUBA

Refugees Force Entry Into Peruvian Embassy [AFP] Q 1
U.S., NATO Military Maneuvers in Caribbean Noted Q 1
Navy in Puerto Rico Q 1
Diplomatic Exchange With Libya Strengthens Ties Q 2
Grenadian Health Minister Visits Santiago de Cuba Q 3
Talks With Newsmen Q 3
Increased Crime Leads to Crackdown on Criminals [AFP] Q 3

CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA

Lester Bird, Grenada's Coard Review Relations S 1
[DAILY GLEANER 12 Jan]

GRENADA

TRINIDAD GUARDIAN Claims on Guerrilla Training Denied [10 Jan] S 1
Bishop Sues GUARDIAN [TRINIDAD GUARDIAN 11 Jan] S 2
Bishop Holds Official Talks With Algerian Counterpart [Havana] S 2

JAMAICA

Cultural Agreement Signed With Soviet Union [Havana] S 2
PNP Rejects National Unity Proposal S 3
[DAILY GLEANER 14 Jan]
Briefs: Medical Team in Jamaica S 3

OTHER COUNTRIES

COLOMBIA

Guerrillas Occupy Electoral Registry Office V 1
Briefs: Ambassador's Resignation; Foot-and-Mouth Disease V 1

GUYANA

PPP Supports Afghan Revolution, Soviet Aid [Havana] V 1

VENEZUELA

Official Explains Incident at Embassy in Cuba V 2

CHILEAN DAILY URGES CLOSER TIES WITH ANDEAN GROUP

PY161119 Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 15 Jan 80 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 15 Jan (AFP)--The influential daily EL MERCURIO emphasized today that Chile must strengthen its ties with the Andean Group.

The daily stated: "In recent years the Andean Group has proved to have the necessary vigor to progressively fulfill its programs." The newspaper added: "It has also shown that it has significant political clout," and to prove this statement, the daily mentioned the cases of Nicaragua, Panama and Bolivia although it indicated that the Andean Pact's intervention in purely political issues has awakened the concern of those who fear the creation of Latin American blocs.

The daily emphasized the positive aspect, which is that the group has been used to strengthen commercial and economic ties with third countries, especially the United States and Brazil. "This is the aspect in which the continuation of ties with the Andean Group could have positive results for Chile," EL MERCURIO said, recalling that when Chile withdrew from the Andean Pact, it had been decided to create a joint Chile-Andean commission which never came into being.

The daily concludes by stating that "it is time for this commission to be put into operation" because although it is not as good as being a member of the group, it is a necessary step for Chile.

MINISTER RESOLVE TO FIGHT COFFEE RUST DISEASE

PA150316 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] The agriculture ministers of the Central American countries, Panama and Mexico met in Mexico City to analyze the problem of coffee rust disease in the area.

Francisco Rodriguez, Panamanian agriculture development minister, represented Panama at this important meeting of coffee producing countries. Minister Rodriguez made the following statements to this station in connection with this meeting:

[Begin recording] The agriculture ministers of Central America, Panama and Mexico were invited by the Mexican agriculture secretary to a meeting, which they held last week from Monday to Wednesday, to discuss the problem of coffee rust disease in Nicaragua and El Salvador. As you all realize, coffee rust disease is a very serious plague which is affecting the economy of these two countries and which could eventually affect the other countries of the area whose coffee production is of great significance to their economy.

All the ministers who attended this urgent meeting believed that the problem should be handled by member countries of the International Regional Organization Against Plant and Animal Disease (OIRSA), which comprises the Central American countries, Panama and Mexico. Thus it is not just a problem affecting Nicaragua and El Salvador.

At present, the disease is only affecting Nicaragua, which has had the plague for the past 2 and 1/2 years, and El Salvador, where it appeared recently. The area affected by this disease is approximately 10,000 hectares in both Nicaragua and El Salvador.

As you can see, the areas affected by the disease are considerable and the expense involved to eradicate it will amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. Besides, there is still the risk of not eradicating the disease after spending all that money.

After considering the financial resources and technical requirements involved in such a program, the agriculture ministers suggested that the best thing to do for the time being was to set up a control program instead of an eradication program. The control program will consist of enforcing quarantine measures and other regulations to prevent the spread of the disease to other countries. Other measures will also be implemented to avoid the possibility that other elements, besides man's direct contact will contribute to the spread of the disease. We have had to get used to living with the disease because its eradication so far has been out of the question.

Important resolutions have been approved for all countries in the area. For example, the areas affected by the disease will be subjected to strict control and receive financial aid for fumigation programs to try to eradicate the disease as much as possible. In the areas not affected by the disease, security zones--quarantines--will be established to restrict the entry of persons, vehicles and other means of transportation which could carry the disease. [end recording]

Minister Rodriguez said that the Central American countries, Panama and Mexico have the financial and technical support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UN FAO and other international organizations to carry out these plans.

BRIEFS

PAN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS--The United States, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, El Salvador, Argentina, Venezuela and Panama were appointed to the new permanent directive committee of the Pan-American Highways Congress which has its permanent seat in Caracas. One of the congress' main objectives is the completion of the Pan-American Highway, which will link all the nations of the area. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Jan 80 PA]

NEW LAFTA PRESIDENT--Montevideo, 9 Jan (LATIN)--The Colombian ambassador to Uruguay, Oswaldo Rengifo Otero, has taken office as president of the permanent committee of the Latin American Free Trade Association [LAFTA]. Ambassador Otero replaces a Brazilian, Amauri Gurgel Valente, who was recalled by his government to take a post in Brasilia. Alfredo Teixeira of Brazil and Julio Cesar Schupp of Paraguay have been appointed vice presidents of LAFTA. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1745 GMT 9 Jan 80 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS CABINET CRISIS 'IMMINENT'

PY171823 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Jan 80 PY

[Excerpt] A ministerial crisis in the Cabinet headed by President Lidia Gueiler Tejada is imminent because there are certainly ministers who will want to qualify as senators or deputies or return to their constituencies to prepare for the elections. This impression was voiced by Interior Minister Jorge Selum Vaca Diez when he replied to questions by the press regarding an alleged partial Cabinet crisis, although he did not believe that anything would happen today. The interior minister believes that there is still time for the ministers to be able to qualify, if they wish to do so.

He also referred to the government's desire to preside over totally impartial elections: [begin recording] The government is preparing itself to preside over elections in the various districts in a wholly impartial manner. This is what we intend to do, to hold a completely impartial election, at least as far as we can. [end recording]

Jorge Selum Vaca Diez said that as of now, Mrs Lidia Gueiler Tejada's government will thoroughly analyze the preelectoral process as one of its basic tasks from the moment general elections are called.

He then referred to the verbal report he is to give to the congress regarding various matters related to his ministry. After saying that he will attend the hearing with much pleasure, he stated that he will give a detailed report regarding the accusation of having violated human rights.

SOCIALIST LEADER QUIROGA ACCUSES BUSINESSMEN OF SEEKING COUP

PY161438 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Jan 80 PY

[Excerpts] Marcelo Quiroga de Santa Cruz, former deputy and present secretary general of the Socialist Party 1 [PS-1], has given a press conference. [Begin Quiroga recording] Private businessmen are collecting $1.5 million to finance a coup. This new seditious action does not result from a specific desire of the military, nor even of its most militant sector, but from the political and economic needs of the monopoly sector engaged in production, commercial and banking activities. The Bolivian Confederation of Private Businessmen, fearful of the steady political growth of the masses, knocks at the doors of the armed forces with a financial offer that seems enough to insure the personal wealth of the coupist. This economic sector uses its own mass media or those allied to it to create favorable psychosocial conditions for the execution of a new coup against democracy by the military. [End recording] The Bolivian Confederation of Private Businessmen has not responded to Quiroga's accusation.

BRIEFS

NEW UNDER SECRETARIAT--The Finance Ministry has created the Under Secretariat of Monetary, Banking and Credit Policies and named Hugo Duchen Zenteno as the under secretary. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Jan 80 p 8 PY]

VICE PRESIDENT HURTADO PRESENTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO NATION

PA170210 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0136 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

[Speech to the nation by Ecuadorean Vice President Oswaldo Hurtado--presumably live]

[Excerpts] The development plan that I have the honor of presenting to the nation on behalf of the government tonight focuses on the 21 points of the platform proposed during the election campaign. It was worked out by the committees appointed by President Roldos after 29 April. They had the cooperation of the various ministries that gave their views before and after the meeting in Salinas.

To save and invest is the major and foremost goal of the national government. How do we save and invest? In sum, how do we get resources to save and invest? We do this first, by promoting, enhancing and developing our export trade. The country has to make an effort to export. Mechanisms, programs and specific projects have been outlined so that in the next few years Ecuador can meaningfully increase and diversify its exports despite the varying conditions of the national economy. Increased state revenue and increased national savings will permit a national capital gain. We believe that national savings is a priority to finance the plan. However, it will not be enough and we suggest resorting to foreign capital as a supplement. The problem of economic accumulation, savings and investment is not only related to revenue collection but also to the way those resources are spent and that is the reason for the development plan. The plan should: set spending priorities, avoid unplanned and unfunded projects and implement only those projects that suit the major government objectives. Thus, we want to pour capital into the financial organizations such as the Promotion Bank, the Development Bank, the National Preinvestment Fund and the Securities Committee, and the National Financial Corporation.

Since both national and international savings invested in the country will not suffice, we are obviously going to have to resort to foreign credit. We are also going to promote the export industry as a key priority. And we are going to develop export farming particularly along the coast, both to permit us to increase our sales--there is a specific cacao project--and to permit us to replace imports. Small industry and crafts are also priorities that can provide jobs for Ecuadoreans. Finally, it will be necessary to conserve our consumption of hydrocarbon byproducts, that is, gasoline and other similar products, because Ecuador cannot continue consuming fuel as it has up to now. If we do not cut back on the indiscriminate rise in [the use of] fuel for large cars, in yachts and other means of transportation that use a lot of gasoline, the national economy will soon give us a country full of roads and automobiles but without the necessary fuel.

Economic development means not only savings and investment; it also involves solving the energy problem. In other words, we have to try to mobilize the economic sectors that have the greatest influence on the advancement of the national economy. I am talking about electricity and oil production. This government plans to develop the fields owned by the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE], both the gas-producing fields in eastern Ecuador. However, CEPE needs funds. CEPE has to be at the center of national oil activities but it is not in a position to do this. The country now lacks resources and it will be necessary to obtain oil operation contracts so capital other than that of the state will be risked in prospecting and exploring for oil.

We also want to replace oil-dependent energy with hydroelectric energy. The country has many possibilities in this area and several such projects that I am going to point out are going to be implemented.

The third objective related to economic development is to give priority precedence to agriculture. This means tackling the price problem so that capital will not be drained out of agriculture for the more profitable investments in the cities. This means investing in the countryside by building an infrastructure, providing credit and technical assistance, restructuring the public sector in charge of agriculture which is not very efficient, increasing technical assistance and coupling it with scientific research and promoting the production of consumer goods that are in short supply and which we are importing now, such as milk, wheat and oleaginous seeds. We also have to create mechanisms to extend settlements to the northwest and the east.

The fourth objective related to economic development involves a better use of our space. This administration is finally going to integrate the nation through the road program. We are also going to transfer resources from the city to the countryside. We are going to promote the development of the provinces.

Economic development as it concerns the state involves a short term policy that will not produce economic imbalances but will stop inflation and that is what the situational [as heard] program sought--to be a step ahead of the problem posed by the pay raise by dishing out public funds and technical assistance to increase agricultural production. The state also wants to recognize the role private business plays in the national economy as set forth in the Constitution. Public enterprises to be backed by the state and community firms owned by workers and farmers to also be state-supported will not be created or expanded at the expense of existing private business. However, state enterprises will continue in those places where they already exist. Community enterprises will be given support wherever they exist. Naturally when it is necessary and when new economic activities that are not in the hands of private business crop up, these state and community enterprises can also help solve production problems.

Reducing unemployment and underemployment are not the only things we are going to do to increase the people's share in the national wealth. As the government has already done, all privileges and injustices will be attacked and we are going to undertake the necessary reforms including land reform. Land reform will be implemented in the framework of basic rural development programs by setting priorities and clear limits, as contained in the plan, so that landowners will not feel uncertain. We want to consolidate land reform which has already begun by turning over to the peasants the land that formerly belonged to the Ecuadorean Institute for Land Reform and Colonization and which turned the institute into a new large landowner.

Social justice also means improving the quality of life of Ecuadoreans. Which citizens are going to use the state's health services? Those that do not belong to social security, the poorest people will use it. We want to increase the health services for their sake. Which citizens do not even know our homeland is called Ecuador? Those who cannot read or write, and so a literacy program has already started. How many Ecuadoreans have no home? In 5 years this administration is going to build more homes than have been built in the past 20 years. We are basically proposing a professional education for those poor Ecuadoreans so they can have greater access to wealth, goods and those things every citizen is entitled to according to the Constitution.

The third great priority objective of the government is to consolidate democracy. This is a fundamental objective, the government's most important one. Completing the 5-year mandate is not only a constitutional obligation, it is an obligation for the future of the fatherland. How much did it cost us to attain democracy? Why should we lose it?

However, how can consolidating democracy be related to a national development plan? What contribution can the plan make to the consolidation of democracy in Ecuador? In my opinion, a grave historic error which has been committed in the country is to believe that democracy is a legal and philosophical problem. Many claim that we have no democracy because the Constitution is bad; that we have no democracy because there are no adequate laws. This is partly true, but I believe that there is a more fundamental cause.

If we want democracy to exist in Ecuador, we must at the same time establish a society with characteristics different from those of the present Ecuadorean society. What should that society be? It should be a society in which economic development and social justice have created certain characteristics which permit the Ecuadorean people to have a direct role in their destiny. It should be a society in which the progress attained makes the Ecuadorean people view the democratic system as a necessity, a society in which people's organizations and their participation make democratic life a daily affair and not just an election-time phenomenon.

To carry out these great priority objectives the development plan proposes programs which will be implemented during the 5-year period. A total of 28 programs, programs which very specifically establish objectives, goals, resources and financing will be implemented. These programs will include all the national activities of a government: agriculture, industry, tourism, science, technology, education, and popular organization. In fact the 28 government programs completely detail the manner in which they must be tackled by the different administrative units.

We are not going to just reaffirm the implementation of programs which have already been proposed in Ecuador. We are proposing new programs, those of science and technology, for example; those of conservation of natural resources and environment, on the use and distribution of physical space, on the promotion of people's organizations. These new programs characterize this development plan. It is also an original plan not just because of what I have said in several instances. It is original because it proposes 40 specific projects, absolutely specific ones, which are going to define this government, which will be completed during the constitutional 5-year term, which will be distributed among all regions and all provinces of the fatherland and which are going to substantially change Ecuadorean society.

How are these projects distributed? A total of 34 percent of the financial resources for these projects is earmarked for social improvement, 32 percent is for energy, 16 percent for rural development, 12 percent for infrastructure and 6 percent for manufacturing. These projects will constitute the backbone of the national government. Some of them will require the necessary resources and attention to prevent what has already happened in the past in Ecuador: the lack of priorities. If we do not establish priorities in our country, we could begin 100 or 200 projects and none will be completed because our resources are unfortunately very limited.

This administration does not want to commit the sins of previous administrations. It wants to dedicate its attention to these priority projects, which are not the only ones because there are many more, but these are considered vital by the government for the 5-year constitutional term.

How will the plan be financed? We are planning a total investment of 376 billion sucres broken down as follows: 61 percent in private investment, that is, 231 billion sucres; and 39 percent government investment, that is, 146 billion sucres. Someone wondered how this government can base its investments on the private sector. The reason is very simple. The private sector has always played and will continue to play a principal role in the national economy. Previously, 65 percent of the investment was private. Today, in relative numbers, the percentage of private investment has been reduced and the government investment has increased with the latter representing 38 percent, whereas previously it was 35 percent.

The investments will be financed through domestic savings of 342 billion sucres. Government savings will represent 105 billion and private savings 237 billion. This is a great challenge for the government and the country because we are proposing investments similar to those made in previous years. However, these proposals are being made during a difficult period, a complex period, when oil no longer represents what it previously did in the national economy.

The other part of the investments will be financed by foreign savings. Foreign savings will represent 34 billion sucres, of which 9.5 billion will be direct foreign investment, 6 billion sucres in foreign loans and the remainder will come from the foreign trade surplus.

A plan cannot be inalterable; it has to be flexible. Therefore, we have scheduled the drafting of yearly operating plans which will correspond to the characteristics which the national economy assumes and to the political contingencies which may arise. However, this plan, after a national debate, after it is approved by the president of the republic, according to the constitutional mandate, will be binding for the government sector and only for the government sector. It is only a guide for the private sector.

However, I want to make an appeal to the private sector to cooperate in its implementation, to follow the guidelines established in the plan and to accept all the support which the Ecuadorean state wishes to give.

GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE UNION, ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

PA170317 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1841 GMT 15 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Quito, 15 Jan (LATIN)--President Jaime Roldos' government will democratize the state's political machinery, extending different levels of participation to unions and popular organizations, Alejandro Roman, secretary general of the presidency, has revealed. The announcement, made at a news conference last night, came at a time when Roldos' administration is facing serious economic problems and growing popular displeasure over the spiraling cost of living.

The state's democratization will imply the incorporation of representatives from the labor centrals into administrative organizations, direct participation by teachers in the literacy board and reorganization of the sectional political organs, said Roman. The government will also maintain "permanent dialogs" with labor centrals, peasant organizations and neglected groups "in order to enrich the government's position with the sentiments and desires of the people," he added.

Roldos assumed the presidency on 10 August and in the last few days was obliged to deal with the first adverse reaction to his administration by student sectors. The students held violent demonstrations against the spiraling cost of staples unleashed by a general wage increase. The demonstrations cost the life of one student who died from a gunshot wound, and resulted in the indefinite suspension of classes. The "populist" image of the government is losing support in the 5th month of Roldos' administration under the pressure of students, drivers and other sectors.

The wage increase, which doubled the minimum wage, was enacted by Roldos himself as a difficult step which would generate serious inflationary problems. The labor centrals and student organizations also announced their opposition to a proposed increase in the cost of fuel, in spite of the fact that, being subsidized by the state, the price of gasoline has been held for a decade at 17 cents for a 3.71 liter gallon. The urban and interprovincial drivers threatened to declare a national strike unless their demands are met for increases in freight rates and passenger fares.

DRIVE BEING LED TO CREATE UN COMMISSION ON IRAN

PA170127 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

[Text] According to reports received from the United Nations, Mexico is negotiating a formal acceptance by Iran of the creation of a commission to examine all aspects of the Iranian issue as well as the release of the hostages. This is in the wake of a U.S. suggestion that it might be acceptable if both topics were discussed together.

In the past few days Mexico has been promoting this idea, originally proposed by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, and it has received support from both the Third World and the nonalined countries.

Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who today indefinitely suspended a news conference and is also expected to suspend a trip to Asia originally slated for next Friday, will meet this evening with Mexican Ambassador Porfirio Munoz Ledo to discuss this initiative.

The possibility that the Security Council might meet in the next few days to grant permission to the UN Secretary General to organize this commission is not being discarded in UN circles. Neither is the possibility that instead of visiting India and Pakistan, Waldheim might return to Tehran despite the Iranian foreign minister's statements.

DISCOVERY OF NEW OIL DEPOSIT ANNOUNCED

PA150512 Paris AFP in Spanish 0120 GMT 15 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Jan (AFP)--At the beginning of the 35th meeting of the Latin American Petroleum Industry Mutual Aid Association (ARPEL), Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] General Director Jorge Diaz Serrano announced today the discovery in Mexico of a new oil deposit with estimated reserves of 15 (?billion) barrels.

The new deposit, named Iris-Giraldas, is located in the southeast near the Chiapas-Tabasco deposit, which extends over 7,000 square km.

Diaz Serrano added that of Mexico's 2.5 million square km--including its continental platform--1.8 million square km are sedimentary basing that may contain hydrocarbon reserves. According to him, only 10 percent of that area has been explored so far.

NAVY CHIEF FAVORS INCREASED ARMS SUPPLIES

PA171708 Paris AFP in Spanish 0209 GMT 17 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Jan (AFP)--Mexican Navy Secretary Adm Ricardo Chazaro Lara said today we are prepared for any emergency and, although we have not felt any foreign pressure, it is necessary to increase our armaments now that we have oil. The navy chief said the present equipment will be adequate for any eventuality but that it must be supplemented in stages. He added that he has spoken to President Jose Lopez Portillo about this.

He also explained that in an initial phase, 15 surface units should be replaced with faster and larger ships. He commented on recent statements made by national Defense Secretary Gen Felix Galvan Lopez to the effect that Mexico is experiencing much foreign pressure. Chazaro Lara said we have not felt pressure but now that we have an abundant oil supply, we must increase our armaments.

FEP SECRETARY GENERAL DISCUSSES VISIT TO IRAN

PA171623 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

[David Carrasco interview with Mario Panther, secretary general of the Federation of Panamanian Students, at the federation's headquarters in Panama City--live telephone relay]

[Text] [Question] We want you to tell us about your experience in Iran and the political importance that this visit has to the Panamanian student movement.

[Answer] The Federation of Panamanian Students [FEP] received an invitation from the Iranian Democratic Youth and Student Organization--a fraternal member of the International Student Union. This invitation seemed like a new stage in the relations of the Iranian student organizations because it was the first official visit that any student delegation has made to Iran, for obvious reasons. The criminal dictator, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, never permitted this in the past, and the incidents that followed the revolution did not make earlier visits possible. The FEP was invited because of the stand it took when it learned that the Panamanian Government had made the incredible decision to grant asylum to Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Our visit definitely was advantageous for the two organizations. The FEP was allowed to witness that authentic revolutionary experience inspired by Islam which unites all progressive forces.

Most Iranians conveyed a profound anti-imperialist conviction which results in constant mobilizations in support of charges made by Imam Khomeyni and other leaders of the Iranian revolution against imperialism and on behalf of the poor.

We were allowed to take a close look at the atrocities committed during the dictatorial regime of the former shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. We were also able to contact the Islamic students who are holding the hostages at the U.S. Embassy. They explained that they did not take over an embassy. What they took over was a house of espionage conspiring against the Iranian revolution. Consequently, this action was aimed at protecting the revolutionary process currently underway. They added that they are standing firmly by their demand and will not release the hostages unless the shah has been extradited so that he can appear before a people's tribunal and pay for the crimes he has committed against the Iranian people.

We also visited the cemeteries the shah had built especially for the burial of his opponents. We were able to witness the contrast between the affluence of the dominant class and the conditions of the people who were going hungry in a country that was receiving $75 million in revenues [no further explanation]. We visited the poor neighborhoods, which had no running water and electricity.

[Question] Did the Panamanian and Iranian students sign any agreements concerning their stand on the world's political situation and particularly on the struggle being carried out by the students of the two countries against colonialism in the world, including the Panamanian case, of course?

[Answer] The FEP issued a document jointly with the Iranian Democratic Youth and Student Organization in which they expressed support for the liberation struggle of the Panamanian students and people and denounced the machinations of U.S. imperialism to hinder the strict implementation of the treaties.

The Iranian student organization also committed itself to joining in the anti-imperialist struggle for the Panamanian right to have full sovereignty over the territory formerly known as the Canal Zone and the full possession of the interoceanic passage. The FEP also expressed its solidarity with the Iranian students and people and the Iranian revolution. The FEP recognized the role of Imam Khomeyni within the forces that are struggling in the world against imperialist domination. The document also established that the demand of the Iranian students and people for the extradition of the shah is just.

PERIOD FOR PARTY REGISTRATION OPENS; NEW PARTIES ANNOUNCED

PA152317 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Political groups that want to become political parties may begin the required procedure. The Electoral Tribunal has agreed to start registration of supporters of a party being formed from 21 January to 22 May. Political parties already registered may resume the registration of supporters. Parties which have already registered are the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], the Popular Broad Front [FRAMPO] and the Liberal Party.

Electoral Tribunal magistrates will submit to the National Legislative Council a bill regulating the national elections for provincial representatives to be held in August. The various political parties have expressed their views on these elections. Miguel Porocell, executive secretary of the People's Party, said that what is more important is for the people to participate. He added that his party supports the system of elections of legislators by provinces.

FRAMPO Secretary General Renato Pereira criticized the free nomination of candidates for provincial representatives and the fact that the Electoral Tribunal has not drafted a serious document to determine the rules of the game for the elections.

PRD Under Secretary Ascanio Villalaz said that the rules of the political game, established and agreed upon after the retreat of the military officers, are being forgotten. He noted that the August elections were widely discussed at the national level.

SUGARCANE UNION ENDS STRIKE AGAINST LA ESTRELLA

PA170032 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Jan 80 pp 1, 20 PA

[By correspondent Vasquez Galvez]

[Text] Nata, Panama--The strike called by the Industrial Union of Sugar Cane and Sugar Workers (SITACA) against the sugar company La Estrella Corporation ended at 2400 Sunday, after a satisfactory agreement was reached between both parties for a new wage increase for approximately 2,000 field workers employed in the sugarcane harvest. The agreement reached through the meditation of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry establishes that the sugar company will pay 43 cents for a 30-meter-long furrow in 1980, 45 cents in 1981 and 48 in 1982. This was included in the collective contract after a long deliberation between the company and union representatives. The company also agreed to pay the workers for the days they were on strike.

COSTA RICA

BULGARIAN TRADE UNION EXPERT EXPELLED

PA180249 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jan 80 PA

[Text] A Bulgarian trade union adviser has been expelled from the country. Security authorities have deported a Bulgarian citizen who arrived in the country a week ago to advise communist unions.

His name is (Pavel Atanofov, Boriokov). He is an expert in trade union matters. According to reports, immediately after arriving in the country he established contact with communist leaders. Apparently (Boriokov) took an active role in the banana workers strike that ended today.

ANTIGOVERNMENT LEFTIST CONSPIRACY DISCOVERED, DENOUNCED

PA171740 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1250 GMT 17 Jan 80 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 17 Jan (EFE)--The Costa Rican public security authorities have reported the discovery of a conspiracy against the Costa Rican Government in which leftists and labor leaders were involved. The charge was made after the arrest of 142 labor leaders and activists during the 29-day-old strike which has paralyzed the banana plantations on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Costa Rica.

According to the police version, the documents seized from an individual connected with the strike in Limon Port, Atlantic coast, demonstrate "very clearly" a presumed "plan of sabotage and organized shock groups." The official report states that the list of names is now being conscientiously studied to identify the members of the sabotage and shock forces.

STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY STRIKE SETTLEMENT REACHED

PA172125 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jan 80 PA

[Excerpt] Almost on the dot at 0500 today the strike by the banana plantation workers in La Estrella Valley and Rio Frio ended. For 28 days the labor conflict had the nation in a state of constant tension because of fear that other activities would be suspended in Limon Province and the disorders would worsen.

This labor conflict at the same time paralyzed activities on other banana plantations not owned by the Standard Fruit Company but where workers suspended work in solidarity with the striking workers, as was the case at the installations of Bandeco and other private enterprises in Huapiles and the stoppage in the banana plantations of the southern zone.

Representatives of the fruit company affected by the strike of Union of Agricultural, Livestock and Related Trades of Heredia and the Union of Banana Workers of La Estrella Valley jointly signed the document by Minister Serrano Pinto which laid the groundwork for the agreement to end the banana strike.

Throughout the night representatives of the unions and the Standard Fruit Company, the minister of labor and Minister Serrano Pinto's advisers met until they arrived at the final agreement, which not only ends the strike by the banana workers but also means a return to normalcy after several agreements and days of justified fear by all Costa Ricans.

The agreement establishes that the company will respect the chapter on 7-hour workdays, the lifting of the strike as of 0500 Friday, the reinstatement of fired workers and the company's advancing loans to workers who ceased to receive wages in the wake of this situation.

It should be stressed that over 6,000 workers were without money because of the strike and that the situation of many of them is difficult, although the company will lend them 500 colones each.

According to the labor minister, Standard Fruit will not pay wages lost during the strike because this is not contained in the document.

According to Minister Serrano Pinto, the company bases its action on a declaration of illegality of the strike made by judges. The company will not pay for work that was not done; therefore there will be no payment of lost wages.

EL SALVADOR

MAJANO DENIES RUMORS OF ARMY REBELLION

PA180339 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0149 GMT 18 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, member of the Salvadoran revolutionary government junta, said tonight there has been no rebellion within the ranks of the Salvadoran Armed Forces as has been rumored by circles interested in disrupting peace and public order.

Newsmen questioned Majano about rumors circulating in this capital following a meeting between the two military members of the junta and officers of the 1st Infantry Brigade stationed in San Salvador. The military uprising that overthrew Gen Carlos Humberto Romero's government on 15 October 1979 was planned at the brigade headquarters, popularly known here as "San Carlos."

Majano said the meeting was an informative one. "You should not be surprised if in the future the civilian members of the government also meet with military officers at the garrisons to report on the progress of the democratization process being promoted by the armed forces," Majano said.

Regarding communist plots reported by Guatemala and Costa Rica, Majano said he has studied news reports on the subject, but the matter has not been discussed at junta level.

Asked about the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, Colonel Majano said Salvadoran problems have monopolized the attention of the revolutionary junta and for this reason he declined to comment.

The government of Great Britain has announced that it will close its embassy in El Salvador because of the delicate political situation here. However, Colonel Majano said his government has received no official notice in this regard. When such a notice is received, efforts will be made to prevent the closure of the British diplomatic mission in this country.

Finally, Majano did not rule out the possibility that the Marxist groups disturbing the peace in El Salvador may have international links.

BRITISH EMBASSY TO CLOSE END OF JANUARY

PA180403 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Jan 80 pp 3, 9 PA

[Text] The British Government has decided to close its embassy in El Salvador at the end of this month because of the security situation in the country.

The British Foreign Office noted that the embassy would also be closed "because of the continuous acts of violence directed against foreign diplomatic missions."

The Foreign Office communique stated that the protection of the embassy, which was assumed at considerable cost, has obstructed its normal activities. Great Britain's relations with El Salvador, which are close and cordial, will be handled in the future by a British ambassador in a neighboring country. His name will be announced shortly, it has been reported.

The British ambassador now is Mr Achilles Symeon Papadopoulos, who took up this important post approximately 2 years ago.

JUNTA MEMBERS FEAR POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL WAR

PA170528 Paris AFP in Spanish 2338 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Jan (AFP)--Two members of the Salvadoran governing junta, a militaryman and a civilian, expressed their fears of an outbreak of civil war in the country, in statements published today. Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez said efforts must be made to avoid a civil war, while economist Hector Dada said that to avoid a civil war the government must make profound reforms that will satisfy the people's needs.

A third member of the new Salvadoran Government, Antonio Morales Ehrlich, noted that civil war, although likely to break out at any time, is not imminent, and suggested that the powerful classes make efforts to stop violence by satisfying some labor demands.

The Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL), meanwhile, have kept silent concerning the case of the South African ambassador in El Salvador, Archibald Dunn, kidnaped by that organization on 28 November 1979.

Yesterday, Tuesday, was the deadline given by the FPL to satisfy its demands, but neither Dunn's relatives nor the kidnapers have issued any statements about it.

In the economic sector, the sugarcane producers said the scarcity of sugar in the domestic market is due to the burning of sugarcane fields by extreme leftist groups who have occupied the mills to make demands. The producers said they are in no position to meet the demands because they exceed their means.

FORMER JUNTA MEMBER UNGO DENIES TALKING TO SOVIET DIPLOMATS

PA171602 Paris AFP in Spanish 0325 GMT 17 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Jan (AFP)--Former Salvadorn Government junta member Guillermo Ungo today denied that he had met with Soviet diplomats during his visit to San Jose last wek, as was reported here.

Ungo, who is a leader of the (Social Democratic) National Revolutionary Movement, visited Costa Rica and Nicaragua last week to meet with the Social Democratic parties in those countries to explain the Salvadoran situation.

Ungo said that he did meet with Cuban embassy officials in Nicaragua just as two other members of the Salvadoran Government junta did last year, as part of their political pluralism.

Ungo said the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is a serious threat to world peace but that the unification of the leftist groups in El Salvador is positive and [word indistinct] possibilities of success for the new government junta because [word indistinct] does not have the support of the masses.

FPL LEADER OUTLINES GOVERNMENT REFORM PROPOSALS

PA171634 Paris AFP in Spanish 0029 GMT 17 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Jan (AFP)--Marcial [as received] chief of the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces, said in an interview granted in El Salvador to the Mexican newspaper UNO MAS UNO that the revolutionary government which the popular movement will soon impose in El Salvador will not be socialist. However, the guerrilla chief, who was once secretary general of the Salvadorn Communist Party, conceded that his movement and the other guerrilla groups support socialism.

Outlining the government program of the guerrilla groups, Marcial said in the interview that ample facilities will be given to the small owners and industrialists, that broad democratic freedoms will be allowed and that illiteracy will be eliminated within 2 years.

LP-28 LEADER DENOUNCES ARMED FORCES REPRESSION

PA160449 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Jan 80 PA

[Statement by Leoncio Pichingues, 28 February People's League leader--recorded; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Our companeros have been released because of the necessary action we took and the strong political pressure we put on the dictatorship. We would like to express our thanks to the Panamanian people, because to some extent they supported our struggle. We also wish to acknowledge the Panamanian ambassador whose cooperation was an important factor in obtaining the freedom of our companeros. We want to thank the ambassadors of Venezuela, Mexico and Costa Rica for cooperating in solving the situation.

We want to take advantage of the occasion to send a militant salute of solidarity to the people of these countries. Furthermore, we want to extend an invitation to all other nations to support the struggle we are waging in our country, which is facing a serious economic, social and political crisis. The maneuvers that U.S. imperialism and the local oligarchy tried to achieve on 15 September through a fabricated coup only proves the state of decay of the present regime. However, our people have upset the maneuvers of imperialism and, together with the people's revolutionary movement, we are advancing toward the realization of true freedom.

The fact that our companeros were released from prison proves that what the government junta and the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) were telling other countries were pure lies.

There are no democratic freedoms in our country. There is no economic solution to the problem of the majority of the people who live in slums.

In order to prove that the government junta was lying we were forced to occupy the Panamanian Embassy. It was the only way we could get our companeros out of prison.

Fellow workers of the world, there are political prisoners in our country. Those who try to organize are arrested. Any attempt to organize is met with repression. Labor organizations are eliminated and the workers arrested with some having been reported missing since their arrests. The government junta and PDC are trying to deny the existence of political prisoners in our country.

Companeros, people of other countries, you have just seen that seven of our companeros, who were reported missing, are among those released by the government junta and PDC. If we had not acted as we did, these seven men would still be in prison without anyone knowing it.

This is one of the reasons why we are asking for your support; and also because the rights of the working classes in El Salvador are met with machinegun fire and tanks as occurred in El Porvenir plantation, where 1,500 striking workers were attacked by the armed forces. The same happened in Berlin, where the armed forces killed more than 100 peasants who were demanding their rights. Some were arrested on that occasion. One of them was released today. This was made possible by occupying the Panamanian Embassy. This is not the first time the armed forces have attacked defenseless people. The armed forces have always been brutal in their repression of the workers movement.

We are asking the nations of the world to give us their support. At the same time we denounce the government junta which claims to be revolutionary but it is not.

ERP ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON ARMED ACTION

PA162246 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1825 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

[Text] We have received a communique from the People's Revolutionary Army [ERP] on the following action [as heard].

The ERP informs the people that on the afternoon of Tuesday, 15 January, some of our squads took over the main streets of San Antonio Abad, occupying the bus stations of routes 22 and 16 to hold a meeting for objectives specified hereafter.

This information was given to YSKL before the other news media.

The objectives listed by the communique were: [no number one given]

To show the people that the government junta has sought, at this time, to emerge from its crisis by resurrecting [reacondicionando] the most brazen maneuver of the imperialists and the oligarchy. It has used the Christian Democratic Party for this purpose. This party, responding to its bourgeois interests, has become the new National Conciliation Party, the PLN.

2. To congratulate the popular movement for having established the bases which lead to the establishment of true unity, a very significant step in this period of struggle that will take our heroic people along a certain path to final victory.

3. To explain to the people that only militant struggle and offensive action against our executioners will permit the people to attain freedom.

With our militant presence, the people have again identified with the armed struggle being carried out by the revolutionary organizations and are participating in and preparing for insurrection. They are following in the footsteps of many of the fallen who have demonstrated their unyielding determination to struggle for the Salvadoran revolution until they triumph or die.

The communique ends with the date and the initials of the ERP.

GUATEMALA

POLICE REPORT PRESENCE OF SANDINIST COMMANDOS, VEHICLES

PA180039 Paris AFP in Spanish 0106 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Jan (AFP)--Police revealed today that Sandinist commandos are in Guatemala, allegedly to cause problems for the hundreds of former Somozist officials who are in asylum here.

Police sources report having stopped several vehicles recently which the Sandinists apparently brought into the country illegally. Among them was a vehicle which had belonged to Hope Portocarrero, wife of former Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Police also reported that one of the vehicles that was stopped was driven by Mirtha Mayorga de Arguello, wife of an important Sandinist government official.

However, according to a radio broadcast monitored here, Sandinist Commander Carlos Nunez said today in Managua that he does not know Mirtha Mayorga, who yesterday made a statement on this matter to the Guatemalan police.

Police sources report that Oscar Mayorga Salado, Mirtha Mayorga's father and former director of a military hospital in Nicaragua, also made a statement in this regard to local authorities.

According to police, Mirtha Mayorga admitted having in her possession vehicles allegedly used to bring Sandinist commandos into Guatemala. However, she denied having brought the car into the country.

NICARAGUA

LABOR MINISTRY PROMOTES COLLECTIVE PRODUCTION

PA171701 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Ministerial offices in the interior of the country will promote production through collective property. For this purpose the Labor Ministry will divide the country into five zones, each one with its own office. The objective of the Labor Ministry is to give incentives to producers to work collectively and overcome the narrow individualism which Somozism had imposed. In this way, the small producers will be able to obtain higher yields by joining cooperatives, a Labor Ministry spokesman indicated. In this way, the revolutionary government hopes to reduce the unemployment rate, and to try to increase production through collective or social property.

REFUGEES FORCE ENTRY INTO PERUVIAN EMBASSY

PA180451 Paris AFP in Spanish 0433 GMT 18 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Havana, 17 Jan (AFP)--Several Cuban men and women managed to force entry into the Peruvian Embassy in Havana in a station wagon, a source (?close) to the embassy reported. Although the guards on duty in front of the embassy fired their machineguns, none of the refugees was wounded. The exact number of refugees is not yet known. The incident occurred exactly 24 hours after a similar one at the Venezuelan Embassy. Police killed one Cuban and wounded two others who were trying to enter the embassy, but one of those wounded managed to get in.

U.S., NATO MILITARY MANEUVERS IN CARIBBEAN NOTED

FL171938 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 80 FL

[Text] A total of 60,000 U.S. troops will participate in war games which the United States will conduct in early February in the Panama Canal Zone. The Pentagon has announced that these exercises are called "Black Fury 3" and will begin on 4 February under the command of the US Southern Command with headquarters in the Panama Canal Zone.

Observers point out that these maneuvers coincide with the bellicose maneuvers called "Springboard" which NATO has been conducting since 14 January in the Caribbean Sea for a period of 4 months. Twenty-eight naval units of the U.S. Navy, 6 from Great Britain and 1 from the Netherlands are participating in the bellicose NATO maneuvers called "Springboard."

A battalion of the 101st Airborne Division of the Yankee army, whose headquarters is in Fort Campbell, State of Kentucky, will participate in the "Black Fury 3" maneuvers. This 101st assault division and the 82d Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, make up the so-called rapid intervention forces of the Pentagon with headquarters in Tampa, Florida.

The "Springboard" and "Black Fury 3" maneuvers are part of Washington's naval and air expansion and increased military presence in the Caribbean and on the oceans around the Latin American continent.

Navy in Puerto Rico

PA170344 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Puerto Rico's Vieques Island is again the site of naval maneuvers by the U.S. imperialist metropolis, this time with the participation of the navies of Great Britain and the Netherlands. These exercises, which involve 35 warships of the 3 countries, will last for 4 months and include simulated attacks on the island and other maneuvers in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Since 1959, but with greater frequency and duration in the past few months, the U.S. Navy has been carrying out maneuvers and firing exercises on Vieques Island.

These practices, repudiated by Puerto Rican independence forces, seriously harm the economic activities of the Vieques Island residents, particularly the fishermen.

In 1979, the patriotic forces of Puerto Rico carried out numerous actions to protest the U.S. presence in Vieques. Fishermen of the small island municipality on several occasions in January and February were able to use their fragile boats to interrupt the (Rivex 79) maneuvers in which five countries in addition to the United States participated.

In May, 21 persons entered one of the firing areas to express the Puerto Rican people's repudiation of new military exercises underway in the waters off Vieques Island. The imperialist metropolis immediately launched strong repressive action against those persons who were fined by the U.S. federal court in San Juan and sentenced to periods of imprisonment which some of them are completing in U.S. jails. One of these was the socialist youth Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, who was killed on 11 November in a U.S. prison in Tallahassee.

The Puerto Rican people are not alone in their great objective of attaining the independence of their fatherland or in their struggle to have the U.S. Navy withdraw from Vieques Island. Both the UN decolonization committee and the movement of nonalined countries in 1979 called for the U.S. to finally cease its military operations on Vieques in order to permit the people of that small island to live in peace in their own territory and fully enjoy the product of their labor on land and sea.

A similar pronouncement was approved at the Second International Conference of Solidarity for the Independence of Puerto Rico held in Mexico City from 30 November to 2 December.

Puerto Rico patriotic organizations have announced that the people of Puerto Rico will mobilize once again to repudiate the new naval maneuvers off Vieques. The mobilization, it was announced, will be more vigorous on this occasion since the United States has intensified its repression in Puerto Rico following U.S. President James Carter's decision to increase his country's military presence throughout the Caribbean.

Puerto Rico, converted by the United States into a great military enclave which threatens all the peoples of Latin America, has seen this reinforcement of the Pentagon's positions in the form of a large-scale increase in soldiers and weapons. But the indomitable Puerto Rican people will not be subdued by these measures and never cease their struggle for independence, which has the support of all the peoples of the world.

DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH LIBYA STRENGTHENS TIES

FL170206 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Jan 80 FL

[Text] There was an exchange of instruments between Cuba and Libya at the Foreign Ministry. This ratifies the agreement signed in May 1978 in Tripoli. The document was signed by Pelegrin Torras, vice foreign minister, and Mr (Ahmad Kamal), acting charge d'affaires of Libya to Cuba. Officials of the Cuban Foreign Ministry were present along with representatives of the Libyan diplomatic mission to Cuba. In their remarks, Pelegrin Torras and (Ahmed Kamal) agreed that this signing ceremony is one more step in strengthening relations between Cuba and Libya.

GRENADIAN HEALTH MINISTER VISITS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL162227 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2211 GMT 16 Jan 80 FL

[Text] Norris Bain, Grenadian health and housing minister, has arrived in Santiago de Cuba as head of an official working visit. During the two days of their stay in the cradle of the revolution [Santiago de Cuba] the delegation will tour sites of historic and tourist interest in that city as well as sites in Segundo Frente Municipality [Santiago de Cuba Province] where they will also visit polyclinics and other assistance units in that mountainous zone. The purpose of the visit by the delegation headed by Norris Bain, Grenadian minister of health and housing, is to study the public health system in our country, acquire experiences for their future application in that fraternal country and increase the ties of cooperation between the two nations. The Grenadian delegation was welcomed by (Miguel D'Alessandro), member of the party provincial committee and other officials.

Talks With Newsmen

FL171127 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jan 80 FL

[Excerpt] Upon arrival in Santiago de Cuba, Grenadian Health Minister Norris Bain stated to reporters that Cuba's aid to his country in the field of public health is very valuable. Precisely at this moment, he added, it is most valuable as there is an ongoing broad program directed at improving the people's health. Cuba was one of the first countries to recognize our revolution and from the very beginning gave us great assistance, sending a group of physicians who cared for more than 26,000 patients, Minister Norris W. Bain stressed. The minister is visiting our country at the invitation of the Cuban Health Ministry.

INCREASED CRIME LEADS TO CRACKDOWN ON CRIMINALS

PA161450 Paris AFP in English 1344 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

[By Jacques Thomet]

[Text] Havana, Jan 16 (AFP)--Twenty years in prison for petty crooks. Twenty years for black market dealers in gasoline ration coupons. This is the new face put on Cuban justice by Fidel Castro's crackdown on judicial "laxity", which also brought about the firing of the national attorney general in a major cabinet reshuffle last week. As part of the general law enforcement campaign that began three weeks ago, 4,000 security agents have been mobilized throughout Cuba to catch both criminal offenders and authors of tracts opposing Mr Castro's two-decade-old Marxist regime.

A most visible sign of the reinforced police presence has been the incessant round of identity checks in buses and private cars. The campaign that cost Attorney General Santiago Cuba Fernandez his job was signaled in advance last July when Mr Castro told the National Assembly he was "ashamed of these weaknesses" that had created in Cuba "a paradise for criminality".

The Cuban leader accused judges of being uncritical and complained of "bad trials" and the freeing of criminals before their sentences were up. "We must ask the minister of the interior, the police, the prosecutors and the courts if they have the will to fight crime," Mr Castro said. Both the attorney general and the interior minister were replaced last week, and it appears the police have been made to respond to the challenge.

ANTIGUA

LESTER BIRD, GRENADA'S COARD REVIEW RELATIONS

FL161420 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 80 p 3 FL

[Text] St. Johns, Jan. 10 (CANA)--Antigua's deputy premier Lester Bird and Grenada's finance minister, Bernard Coard, met here last night to review relations between their two countries, which soured after the Grenada coup of March last year.

A source close to the talks said that the meeting lasted some four hours, that it was fruitful and constructive.

The source could not give details of the discussions, but said that the two ministers who are responsible for economic development of their respective countries, touched on prospects for future development in the Caribbean in the economic and political spheres.

Antigua was among eastern Caribbean islands publicly frowning on the armed ousting of the Eric Gairy regime by Grenada's leftist New Jewel Movement, March 13.

A week after the revolution, Antigua hosted a hurriedly-summoned meeting to discuss its implications.

Relations went further downhill, following a blistering attack by Coard on the deputy premier at a rally in St. Georges in October.

He described Bird then as "a stooge, yard fowl and Uncle Tom."

GRENADA

TRINIDAD GUARDIAN CLAIMS ON GUERRILLA TRAINING DENIED

FL141615 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Jan 80 p 1 FL

[Text] Bridgetown, 9 Jan (CANA)--Grenada today denied a press report which quoted a Trinidad and Tobago Government official as saying that Cubans were giving scores of Trinidadians terrorist and guerrilla-type military training in the Spice Isle.

Phyllis Coard, deputy secretary for information in the Grenada Government, in an overseas phone call to CANA headquarters here, dubbed the story in the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN "an outrageous and malicious lie."

She said that not even Grenadians, furthermore non-nationals, were being trained there in guerrilla warfare. All military training in Grenada was of the standard type, she said.

Mrs. Coard said the Grenada Government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop would be seeking clarification of the story from the Trinidad and Tobago Government and was taking steps to sue the newspaper.

The "GUARDIAN" quoted the government official as saying that some 200 Trinidadians went to Grenada for "specialised training" since the March 13 coup which brought a new leftist administration to power in St. Georges.

Mrs. Coard said her government would be writing to the Trinidad and Tobago administration shortly to find out if the statements in the "GUARDIAN" attributed to a government spokesman represented an official position.

"No Trinidadians are receiving military training of any form in Grenada, Mrs Coard told CANA. "The army is receiving standard military training," she added.

Since the March 13, 1979 revolution in St. Georges, Grenada has had military assistance from Cuba, to help ward off a potential counter coup by deposed Prime Minister Eric Gairy.

Bishop Sues GUARDIAN

FL141620 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jan 80 p 1 FL

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has filed a writ in the Port-of-Spain High Court against the Trinidad Publishing Company for a front page article in the "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN" on Wednesday headlined "Grenada Training Trinidad Guerrillas."

The writ was filed yesterday afternoon by Messrs. Roberts, Primus and Co., of Abercromby Street, Port-of-Spain, on behalf of Mr. Bishop against the company and Mr. Lenn Chong Sing, editor-in-chief.

Mr. Bishop is claiming damages for libel, which he claims was contained in the article. He is also asking for an injunction to restrain the company and its workers from further writing, printing and circulating news about him.

BISHOP HOLDS OFFICIAL TALKS WITH ALGERIAN COUNTERPART

FL162002 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1917 GMT 16 Jan 80 FL

[Text] A PRENSA LATINA dispatch reports that today Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop began official talks with his Algerian counterpart Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani. Yesterday Bishop and the governmental delegation accompanying him arrived in Algeria where the delegation from the Caribbean island will have a chance to learn about the economic and social development of that north African nation. The cable datelined Algiers states that in its edition of today the paper EL MOUDJAHID reports on its front page on the visit of the Grenadian leader. He is accompanied by, among others, Minister Selwyn Strachan.

For its part the Algerian news agency recalled the increase achieved in the bilateral economic ties and stated that in 1978 [as heard] Algeria imported merchandise from Grenada valued at over 3 million dollars.

JAMAICA

CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION

FL180136 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jan 80 FL

[Text] Jamaica and the Soviet Union have signed a cooperation agreement in the field of art, culture and science covering the period between 1980 and 1981 with an option to renew the agreement. The agreement documents were signed by Jamaican State Minister Arnold Bertram and Soviet Ambassador to Jamaica Dmitriy Musin. The agreement covers various areas of art and culture, movies, radio and television, book publishing, public health and social security.

The Soviet diplomat said that the signing of the convention ratifies the agreements signed last April in Moscow at the end of Prime Minister Michael Manley's visit to the USSR and is a demonstration of the consolidation of bilateral links and friendship between the two countries.

PNP REJECTS NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

FL161415 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Jan 80 p 1 FL

[Text] A call by the private sect or organization of Jamaica for the creation of an administration of national unity, has been rejected by the special delegates' conference of the PNP, which ended at the Kingston Inter-Continental Hotel yesterday.

The conference, which had a full turnout of PNP delegates numbering some 2,500 and about 1,900 special observers, said in a resolution which it passed unanimously, that what the PSOJ (Private Sector Organization of Jamaica) had called for was a "non-constitutional, undemocratic rule of the Jamaican people by a 'best brains elite.'"

The conference which had been specially called to set out the party's stand on vital issues affecting the economy and to recieve the government's response to these issues, including its plans for solving the economic crisis, took time out to discuss the PSOJ's call for an administration of national unity.

In its call, the PSOJ had said that by an administration of national unity, it meant the appointment of a Cabinet "drawn from the best brains which the country has to offer--be they PNP, JLP, non-partisan businessmen or professionals."

The resolution was released on behalf of the conference by PNP Deputy General Secretary Dr. Paul Robertson, who read it to the members of the press, last night.

While rejecting the PSOJ call, the conference mandated the government to "invite the PSOJ to bring forward specific and detailed proposals to help improve the foreign exchange situation, including specific steps to deal with the illegal exportation of foreign exchange, to a special meeting of the mixed commission...."

The conference condemned the recent statement by PSOJ honorary secretary, Mr. Oliver Clarke, which, it said "introduce into the politics of the country the idea that Jamaica should be run by military dictatorship."

At the same time, the conference mandated the PNP executive and the National Executive Council to take note of sections of the private sector calling for "resignation" of the government and other political solutions, and to take such actions as thought fit in the context of the spirit of this conference."

BRIEFS

MEDICAL TEAM IN JAMAICA--Kingston--A second team of 12 Cuban doctors has arrived in Kingston to join the brigade that is working in various hospitals in the capital and countryside of Jamaica. An advance team of six Cuban doctors had arrived in Kingston in mid-November. The group of 12 doctors includes 7 clinicians, 2 pediatricians, 1 pathologist and 1 anesthesiologist [figures as heard]. Currently there are about 40 Cuban specialists in the fourth international brigade that has been serving since 1976 in hospitals, clinics and medical care centers of the Jamaican Government throughout the island. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Jan 80 FL]

COLOMBIA

GUERRILLAS OCCUPY ELECTORAL REGISTRY OFFICE

PA180024 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0516 GMT 16 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 16 Jan (EFE)--An electoral registry office here working on the municipal council and departmental assembly elections to be held in March was occupied Tuesday night by communist guerrillas. The guerrillas of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) burned lists and records and painted subversive slogans on the walls, the central police office here reported. Four men and a woman wearing masks carried out the operation at 0100 at Electoral Registry Office No 2 in front of the Santa Librada School here.

The EPL, the third main guerrilla group in the country, carried out a similar operation against an electoral registry office at the end of 1979 in Bogota and took more than 300 cedulas of citizens who had registered to vote in the March elections.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR'S RESIGNATION--The Foreign Ministry today accepted the resignation of Colombian Ambassador to Bolivia Ernesto Vela Angulo. He had submitted his resignation on 7 August. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Jan 80 PA]

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE--Jose Maria Jimenez, deputy director of the livestock production office of the Colombian Agricultural-Cattle Institute, has stated that foot-and-mouth disease has been detected in 1,550 farms and that only 30 percent of the cattle in the nation have been vaccinated against vesicle diseases. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 80 PA]

GUYANA

PPP SUPPORTS AFGHAN REVOLUTION, SOVIET AID

FL112006 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1918 GMT 11 Jan 80 FL

[Text] The People's Progressive Party [PPP] headed by former Prime Minister Cheddi Jagan has expressed support for Afghanistan's revolution and the Soviet aid to repulse the aggression against that country from abroad, a TASS news agency report from Georgetown, capital of Guyana, states. It adds that the PPP has declared that the victories of the revolutionary forces in Iran, Nicaragua and Grenada changed the correlation of forces in the struggle against imperialism by the end of last decade. The PPP declaration stresses that following the overthrow of the shah's regime in Iran, cracks became evident in the strategic arch created by U.S. imperialism around the southern borders of the Soviet Union. As a result of that situation, the United States, the hegemonistic Chinese and Pakistan's reactionary circles attempted to destroy the Afghan revolution, the report adds.

The U.S. and Chinese subversive activities against Afghanistan has been condemned by the World Peace Council and the participants in the international conference of solidarity with the Afghan people.

The PPP further states that the training of saboteurs in Pakistani territory was being conducted by agents of the U.S. CIA and Chinese and Pakistani military personnel.

The imperialist meddling in Afghanistan's domestic affairs and the penetration of armed groups from Pakistani territory was a grave threat to the Afghan revolution. Guyana's PPP also notes that throughout the years 1978 and 1979 the Afghan Government repeatedly asked for military assistance from its neighbor, the Soviet Union, to repulse the aggression coming from abroad.

VENEZUELA

OFFICIAL EXPLAINS INCIDENT AT EMBASSY IN CUBA

PA172021 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 17 Jan 80 PA

[Ernesto Vegas report]

[Text] I have no official report that someone else died trying to seek asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba, acting Foreign Minister Dr Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos said at Miraflores Palace a few minutes ago. He said all he knows is that there was a shootout because Cuban Government guardsmen are stationed in front of the Venezuelan Embassy and that one person was wounded and sought asylum at the embassy. Here is the acting foreign minister: [begin recording] The report is inaccurate and so I would like to tell you that the facts are that apparently a dump truck did not even enter the embassy premises. Some people did try to seek asylum. A shootout ensued because the Cuban Government has guards stationed in front of the embassy and one of them [as heard] who was wounded broke into the embassy and requested asylum. This is a new refugee [words indistinct].

[Question] Was anybody killed?

[Answer] I have no news of that. The gentleman in question was wounded, was given medical care and he is now in asylum but I have no news of the press report I have just read. I think it is inaccurate.

[Question] Did Cuban police open fire on the embassy?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Ambassador Rondon Lovera has still not arrived in Havana?

[Answer] He will arrive there today.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Well, because as you know he had to go to Mexico to (?get a flight) and go to Cuba.

[Question] When did Cuba promise to [words indistinct]?

[Answer] I can tell you that later. [end recording]

So much for the acting foreign minister's remarks. He said he has no official news of a report published in the local media that one person was killed and another one wounded as they tried to seek asylum at our embassy in Havana.